THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The raid at the art silk industry was conducted in May, 1985. Some general transfers and postings of Group 'A' officers of the Central Excise and Customs Service were made in June-July; 1985 keeping in view the policy of rotation of officers and other administrative considerations but these general transfers were not on account of raid on the art silk industry.

Effect of terrorist activities on tourism

2896. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tourism in the country has received a severe set back due to terrorist activities in the country;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to create confidence amongst the prospective tourists; and

(c) what are the details of the foreign exchange earned from tourists during the first six months of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The Department is aware that there has been a significant decline in the inflow of foreign tourists in 1984 and the first-half of 1985 on account of a series of adverse circumstances in our country as also some of our neighbouring countries including the terrorist activities, the adverse media coverage these events received abroad, the imposition of blanket visa requirements on all foreigners visiting India and the advce s-sued by a large number of foreign countries to their nationals in November and December not to visit India on account of disturbed law and order conditions.

(b) The action taken by the Government to counteract the effects of adverse media publicity abroad include re-assurance campaigns in the international media seeking to project India as a country of continental dimensions which remain free from law and order trouble despite the out-break of terrorist activities in some parts of the country, inviting media representatives and selected tour operators and travel agents to visit India to see for themselves that things were normal, requesting the foreign Governments through our External Affairs Ministry and our overseas Missions to withdraw their directives against their nationals visiting India and sending promotional delegations abroad and holding travel marts etc. with a view to instilling confidence.

(c) Not available so far.

Training for bank employees to improve efficiency

2897. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the directives of Prime Minister, training centres have been set up in different parts of the country, especially in the backward areas, for training bank employees with a stress on improving efficiency;

(b) if so, what are the details of such centres, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a also a fact that some training centres, and especially those set up in the economically/backward areas, are proposed to be shifited to other places even though the rent and over-head expenses at existing places are very low being backward areas; and

(d) whether Government have carried out a study to see as to how much more expensive it would be to shift the existing centres to new places even though such places are not economically backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The details of Training Centres up in different parts of the country by the public sector banks are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Reports received so far indicate that there is on proposal to shift any training centre in any public sector bank at present.

(d) Does not arise.